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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,437	09/05/2006	Roger Milner King	CAR-001PAT	4872

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EXAMINER

VOLZ, ELIZABETH J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3781

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05/26/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/582,437	Applicant(s) KING, ROGER MILNER	
	Examiner ELIZABETH VOLZ	Art Unit 3781	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King (GB 2382071) in view of Wittwer (U.S. Patent No. 3,435,978).

3. Regarding Claim 1, King '071 discloses a threaded container closure assembly (Figure 1) comprising: a container neck 10 (Figure 2) having an opening (Figure 2); a closure 12 (Figure 1) for said neck, the closure having a base portion 14 (Figure 3) and a skirt portion 16 (Figure 3); a first screw thread 18 (Figure 2) on the neck, said first screw thread comprising one or more first thread segments (Figure 2), and a second screw thread 20 (Figure 3) on an inner surface of the skirt of the closure, said second screw thread comprising one or more second thread segments (Figure 3) define a continuous helical thread path along which said closure travels from a fully disengaged to a fully secured position of the closure on the container neck and being configured to enable a user to secure (Figure 1), remove and resecure the closure into a sealing position on the neck by rotation of the closure on the neck (Page 3, Lines 6-8). King '071 does not disclose a first locking projection on the container neck separate from the first thread segments and a second locking projection on the inner surface of the skirt of the closure separate from the second thread segments, said first and second locking

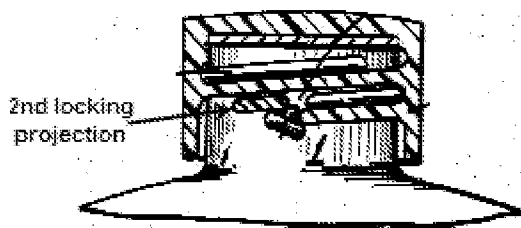
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projections being configured to resist unscrewing of the closure from the fully engaged position on the container neck after the closure has been secured or resecured on the container neck until a predetermined unscrewing opening torque is applied; wherein said first and second locking projections longitudinally overlap the first of the second thread segments when the closure is in the fully engaged position on the container neck; the height of said locking projections is such that a radially innermost vertex of the second locking element rides over a radially outermost vertex of the first locking element as the fully secured position is reached and the first locking projection is located longitudinally overlapping with and circumferentially spaced from an upper end of a first thread segment and define an extension of the thread path. However, Wittwer teaches a first locking projection 14/17 (Figure 8) on the container neck separate from the first thread segments and a second locking projection (Figure 8 below) on the inner surface of the skirt of the closure separate from the second thread segments, said first and second locking projections being configured to resist unscrewing of the closure from the fully engaged position on the container neck after the closure has been secured or resecured on the container neck until a predetermined unscrewing opening torque is applied (Column 4, Lines 5-9); wherein said first and second locking projections longitudinally overlap the first of the second thread segments when the closure is in the fully engaged position on the container neck (Figure 8) and whereby a radially innermost vertex of the second locking element rides over a radially outermost vertex of the first locking element as the fully secured position is reached and the first locking projection is located longitudinally overlapping with and circumferentially spaced

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from an upper end of a first thread segment and define an extension of the thread path (Figure 8; column 4, Lines 5-9). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify King '071 to include locking projections, as taught by Wittwer, in order to prevent the cap from unscrewing.

Figure 8 (Wittwer)



4. Regarding Claim 2, King '071 teaches all the limitations substantially as claimed except for first and second locking projections which have sufficient strength to snap over each other without permanent deformation. However, Wittwer teaches first and second locking projections 14/17 (Figure 8) which have sufficient strength to snap over each other without permanent deformation (Column 4, Lines 10-13). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify King '071 to include first and second locking projections which have sufficient strength, as taught by Wittwer, in order to prevent the cap permanent deformation.

5. Regarding Claim 3, King '071 teaches all the limitations substantially as claimed except for locking projections with a ratio of the maximum height to the maximum width is at least 0.5. However, Wittwer teaches locking projections with a ratio of the maximum height to the maximum width is at least 0.5 (Figure 8). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

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to modify King '071 to include locking projections with a ratio of the maximum height to the maximum width is at least 0.5, as taught by Wittwer, in order to prevent the cap from unscrewing.

6. Regarding Claim 4, King '071 teaches all the limitations substantially as claimed except for first and second locking projections which are situated near the bottom of the threads when the closure is fully secured on the container. However, Wittwer teaches first and second locking projections which are situated near the bottom of the threads when the closure is fully secured on the container (Figure 8). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify King '071 to include first and second locking projections which are situated near the bottom of the threads when the closure is fully secured on the container, as taught by Wittwer, in order to prevent the cap from unscrewing.

7. Regarding Claim 5, King '071 discloses first thread segments 18 (Figure 1) which are shorter than said second thread segments 20 (Figure 1).

8. Regarding Claims 6, 7 and 12, King '071 discloses there are 4 to 16 first thread segments (Figure 4) and at least four thread starts (Figure 4).

9. Regarding Claim 8, King '071 discloses mutually engageable elements on the neck and the closure to block or restrict rotation of the closure in an unscrewing direction beyond an intermediate position when the closure is under axial pressure in a direction emerging from a container neck (Page 9, Lines 1-4).

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10. Regarding Claims 9-11, King '071 discloses a closure which can be moved from a fully released to a fully engaged position on the container neck by a single smooth rotation through 90 degrees or less (Page 6, Lines 32-Page 7, Lines 1-2).

11. Regarding Claim 13, King '071 teaches all the limitations substantially as claimed except for first and second locking projection which are configured such that they are in abutment when the closure is at the fully closed and sealing position on the container neck, and the closure projections are slightly distorted at said sealing position such that a resilient force is exerted between the projections in abutment to urge the closure into said fully closed and sealing position. However, Wittwer teaches first and second locking projection which are configured such that they are in abutment when the closure is at the fully closed and sealing position on the container neck, and the closure projections are slightly distorted at said sealing position such that a resilient force is exerted between the projections in abutment to urge the closure into said fully closed and sealing position (Figure 8; Column 4, Lines 5-13). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify King '071 to include first and second locking projection which are configured such that they are in abutment when the closure is at the fully closed and sealing position on the container neck, and the closure projections are slightly distorted at said sealing position such that a resilient force is exerted between the projections in abutment to urge the closure into said fully closed and sealing position, as taught by Wittwer, in order to prevent the cap from unscrewing.

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12. Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. 1.111, including: "The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. A general allegation that the claims "define a patentable invention" without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. Moreover, "The prompt development of a clear Issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims." Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06 II(A), MPEP 2163.06 and MPEP 714.02. The "disclosure" includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELIZABETH VOLZ whose telephone number is (571) 270-5430. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Stashick can be reached on (571) 272-4561. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/E. V./
Examiner, Art Unit 3781

/Mickey Yu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3728